

# MAYOR'S COMMITTEE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

## JANUARY 26, 2009

### MINUTES – Meeting in Newton City Hall – Cafeteria

**PRESENT:** Rob Caruso (Co-Chair), Jini Fairley, Barbara Lischinsky, Heather Platt, Doug Sweet (Co-Chair)  
**REGRETS:** Jane Brown, Lucie Chansky, Rosemary Larking, Girard Plante, Jason Rosenberg  
**STAFF:** Bev Droz (Human Services), Kathleen Cahill (Planning & Development)  
**GUESTS:** John Daghlian, Associate City Engineer; David Naparstek, Commissioner, Health & Human Services; Ann Phelps, Conservation Commission staff director; Carol Schein, Parks & Recreation Dept.

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The meeting was called to order at 6:40pm and chaired by Douglas Sweet.

**Minutes from Dec. 15 meeting:** J. Fairley made a motion to accept the minutes and H. Platt seconded the motion. The Committee voted 5-0-0 to approve the minutes.

The agenda was reviewed. Doug reminded all present that we would hear from each presenter and ask questions as needed. Once the presenters have finished, the Committee will enter deliberations. The presenters are welcome to stay but will not be allowed to comment at that time.

#### DPW/Planning presents curb cut proposal

Presenter: John Daghlian, Associate City Engineer, and Kathleen Cahill

CDBG funds will be used to construct curb cuts where there are currently none, or reconstruct curb cuts that are currently non-complaint with ADA requirements. A list of intersections identified for curb cut construction and/or reconstruction are attached to this application. Traditionally, the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities, works to develop a list of priority intersections, in order for Planning and DPW staff to take advantage of the short construction season, by maintaining the momentum of work.

There is 30-60% annual allocation to curb cuts to help increase accessible routes; historically we've focused on well-traveled routes. For the FY10 budget, Dept. of Public Works and the Planning Dept. are asking for \$75K for curb cuts. We have \$120K available.

John explained what goes into the reconstruction and construction of curb cuts. Mostly they utilize granite curbing areas.

- take out existing site and refurbish it
- stamped - 1 time application \$450; stamped not always consistent
- Tactile area is replaceable, in concrete, wants DPW to move to plastic insert (some work is by private contractors.) Can be replaced. Can come down (about \$200) with quantity (bolted in). He showed diagram and explained landing, slopes, crown, etc.
- Threshold stone becomes flush at base (lowest end of curb cut).

When the total reconstruction of a street is in process, it involves the Planning Dept.

Kathleen started database to track curb cuts completed each year, looking at FY08, FY09 and therefore planning FY10.

Heather expressed concern if tactile areas are big enough, there needs to be contrast.

John said all are compliant with AAB and are 3 x 5 or 2 x 4. They use yellow because it can be easily seen.

Rob asked, and John replied that a rough estimate of new curbs at radius 35' is \$5400 per curb cut. Kathleen noted that prices change in February.

John said materials are currently out to bid, including asphalt, concrete, and granite curbing.

- Average cost last year = \$3,900 per curb cut.
- Using granite since 4-5 years ago, as they go along the asphalt is replaced.

If we approve \$75K, we can only count on 15 curb cuts (\$5K each) and it's more than 60% of budget.

Barbara brought up that many crosswalks need to be re-stripped. Kathleen said that falls under Clint Schuckel's crew.

### Health & Human Services presents ramp proposal at Health building

Presenter: David Naparstek, Commissioner, Health & Human Services Dept.

Historic building at 1294 Centre St., Newton Centre.

The handicap access ramp to the Health & Human Services facility has deteriorated over the past 80 years to the extent that it is no longer usable. The ramp is constructed of concrete which has deteriorated to the extent that a large part of the surface area is pulverized and not passable.

When the building was retrofitted from a branch library to the Health Department headquarters, an elevator was installed to provide access between the two levels of the interior building. The cost of installing this elevator represented 60% of the cost of the retrofit. The department administration was committed to making the building accessible. The elevator has become useless because the building itself cannot be accessed.

The proposed project will fund replacing the ramp and installing proper railing in the same location and will be ADA compliant. It also will provide appropriate signage. CSS Architects, Inc. conducted an assessment of the existing ramp as well as options for a ramp that would be in compliance with the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (AAB) standards.

Unfortunately, the layout of the building and the use of the grounds preclude constructing a ramp that meets current standards. The repair of the existing ramp would likely require a variance from the AAB.

David gave some history. It was built in 1927 and was a branch library from 1934 to 1991. His department moved in 1993. The elevator is a full passenger one to go ½ floor to one area. The concrete ramp with metal railings is part of the original.

He requested CPA funds for the overall building, roof, windows and bricks including sidewalks and various stairs but the cost would be \$500,000. Since that's too costly, he is asking for funding for the ramp - which is a 40' ramp, 40" wide, too steep and much of the surface is pulverized into sand. A new concrete ramp with railing would cost \$28K. They would include a HP space and are probably looking at Sept 2009 for a private contractor. Currently there are 6 parking spaces on site and 6 along side of building. The HP space will eliminate 1 space.

It was noted that we get funding 7/1/09, and it is available 9/1/09.

## Planning Dept presents Crystal Lake proposal

Presenter: Ann Phelps, Conservation Commissioner, Planning Department

The project is to construct a 210 ft by 5 ft stone-dust pathway parallel to the shoreline of Crystal Lake at the rear of 230 Lake Avenue. The chain-link fence at the boundary of Livingston Cove and 230 Lake Avenue will be removed. The stabilized dirt path that ends at the fence will be extended as a stone-dust path to provide firm footing for pedestrian and wheel-chair access along the shoreline to the newly acquired City parcel on the other side of 230 Lake Avenue. This project provides expanded opportunities for out-door passive recreation, and is a crucial step in linking Livingston Cove and the bathhouse.

CDBG funds will be used to pay for the cost of materials and equipment not presently available in the city, as well as permitting costs. Labor costs will be borne by the City of Newton as an "in-kind" contribution.

Ann described that the Crystal Lake bath house had walking path but ended at private property and chain link fence. The fence separates where easement is and the adjacent property owner. The City bought 20 Rodgers St adjacent to bath house. Livingston Cove (.5 acre) has a public boat ramp and bench. The City controls approximately ¼ of footage around lake.

One problem is that the new owner of house at 230 Lake Ave. was not happy with easement, and the path has to be completed by 10/09 or it becomes null and void due to contract. The path is approximately 210 feet long. The hill is part of project area so the path won't require much grading and the path will be 5 ft. wide. The closest area of the path to the #230 homeowner is near their garage. Ann doesn't favor taking down trees but a few (2) will come down. DPW has signed on to do it. They're aware that if they know they are getting funds, they can order supplies ahead and save money. We'll have funds available between July 1 and Sept.1. Ann has been told that DPW can still complete the work by Oct. 09. They're asking \$8,951.

Jini was concerned about the grading and asked if it be guaranteed.

There was further discussion about the land area. For 20 Rodgers Road, the land is for conservation (no building) with maybe some parking at the top. The path is supposed to be level. The back area of land is level but has trees so therefore the path would have to be moved up. The section Ann is asking about is the other section on the hill and it will need hand railing due to slope. It's built into the Master Plan. It's a lot of hard work so they expect it will take 2 months to build.

## Parks and Recreation presents Cold Spring proposal

Presenter: Carol Schein, Parks and Recreation Dept.

Funding for this project will provide for the construction of an accessible route, two HP parking spaces, and a dual accessible HP bubbler at this large heavily used City Park that currently has no pathways at all. It will provide for a level, 5'-wide asphalt pathway that will enable access for people of all abilities to the distant softball field, the soccer field, the tennis courts and the basketball courts. It will also provide for much-needed safe access for all people during the City's very busy 4-month long Farmers Market season (July-Oct).

Carol described the accessible route at “new” Cold Spring from the Beacon St. entrance where there are playing fields and the farmers’ market is held. Cold Spring is 67 acres, much is wooded. She had a map and described the proposed pathways in the various grass areas. There are currently no connections to the various courts and fields. The well attended Farmers’ Market is open 1 day/week, from July through Oct. No one in wheelchairs can get to the basketball, tennis, and especially softball areas. These areas are heavily programmed with games.

Both phases would total 1100’ of paved walkway (5’ wide) and introduce more HP spaces on the drive way area. It costs \$65K for whole walkway, 2 HP spaces and drinking fountain.

Phase 1 (\$35K) would included the 2 HP spaces, and a partial walkway and drinking fountain.

This project would put out to Contractor. Mike Baldi in Engineering said it would be spring 2010.

The MCPD members thanked the presenters for their time and proposals. The Committee then entered discussion.

## **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

For the proposal on the curb cuts, it was noted that it does not include APS but we still have \$12K in our budget to put to that. The Committee agreed on the \$75K for curb cuts. We’ll discuss stamped vs. fiberglass at a future meeting.

For the Cold Spring proposal, the Committee agreed to start by funding Phase 1 at \$35K. There isn’t enough money for everything but at least this will allow for the major areas described at the Cold Spring Park to be more accessible for all.

For the ramp proposal at the Health Dept. building, the Committee discussed that there is hardly any foot traffic and the people who currently use the building, use the entrance from the parking lot (which is not accessible), not the ramp. Again, since there is not enough money for everything, we need to prioritize that the funding goes to projects that serve the most people.

For the Crystal Lake proposal, the Committee agreed that the \$9K would be important because many people could then use this area.

**Heather made a motion, and Rob seconded, that the MCPD recommends \$75K for curb cuts, \$35K for Phase 1 of Cold Springs, \$9K for Crystal Lake, and \$4K for APS (Audible Pedestrian Signals) totaling \$123K, and the motion passed unanimously.**

There was a motion to adjourn at 8:45 pm.

**The next meeting will be on Monday, February 23, 2009 at 6:30pm in the cafeteria.**  
(Note: Feb. 16 is a holiday and there are no rooms available Feb. 18.)

Respectfully submitted by Beverly Droz